

## **OPERATIONS**

**31 October 2003**

**Questions and Answers**

**3:20PM**

Q1: Does the captured ordnance to be destroyed contain Weapons of Mass Destruction?

A1: No.

Q2: What is the length of the contract?

A2: The length of contract is currently 1 year, ending in Sept 2004 unless extended.

Q3: What types of munitions are they?

A3: Captured ordnance includes a wide array of items, including small arms ammunition and large conventional bombs. Routine inventories are being conducted to determine what was captured. Examples may include many items you've probably seen on television--These conventional munitions include everything from small arms ammunition, grenades, mines, missiles, projectiles, mortars, rocket and rifle propelled grenades, bombs and small items such as fuses, flares and others.

Q4: Where exactly are the munitions/where will they be rendered harmless?

A4: The munitions were captured from enemy forces and include stockpiles, such as ammunition storage areas. They will be rendered safe from emergency detonation or for transportation as determined by the Department of Defense.

Q5: How much ammunition have you found/do you expect to find?

A5: Thousands of tons of munitions have been captured to date. No one knows what will be discovered as we continue our reconstruction efforts to make the country safe for the people of Iraq.

Q6: What credentials are required for the people doing the removal work?

A6: Contractors were selected based on their experience and their ability to provide personnel qualified to handle ordnance and explosives. All personnel working on this project with ordnance will require certifications that they meet specific established qualifications prior to being allowed to work.

Q7: How many people will be involved?

A7: We are developing staffing plans for execution. We anticipate about 50 U.S. government employees along with U.S. civilian contractors and sub-contractors numbering in the hundreds. Currently (31 Oct 2003) we have approx. 250 contractors, 10 government employees and 400 local hires.

Q8: Who is providing security for the munitions?

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A8: Elements of DOD have secured captured ammunition. Plans call for us to take over that responsibility as determined by DOD.

Q9: What does it mean to "dispose" of munitions?

A9: Experts identify the types of ordnance and make them safe for emergency detonation or transportation to another area where they will not be a public danger. Captured unexploded ordnance (UXO)/weapons are generally rendered harmless and ultimately destroyed on site or in designated areas; or they are carefully prepared for transportation and storage to a secure, guarded area. [See Q&A#3](#)

Q10: Can you provide a graphic description of the disposal process?

A10: First, active military forces capture/discover ammunition and/or arms. Highly trained explosives experts clear the area for safety and identify the type(s) of ordnance found. They determine whether or not an item presents an immediate danger and determine the safest course of action to protect the public and themselves. Depending upon the nature and condition of the item, it may be destroyed in place or otherwise rendered harmless such as via removal of a fuse or other activating device. If not destroyed but rendered safe, the item may be transported to another location for eventual destruction at a demolition area or a central collections point for storage.

Q11: Where does the ammunition come from? What is its country of origin?

A11: Currently, munitions from Jordan, Russia, France, and the US, just to name a few.

Q12: Much has been mentioned in the news about the apparent lack of security at these ammunition sites, when will you take over the security and how will you make it better?

A12: The original mission objectives were to take over the CEA mission from the active military. Department of Defense has agreed to take care of security until our contractors can institute their own security that meets and exceeds current DOD security standards and rules permit the arming of non-active duty personnel. 100% mission transfer for the 6 current sites to the USACE is scheduled for December 2003.

Q13: Why is this mission being contracted, can the military not handle this work?

A13: Due to the quantity of CEA, the USACE expertise and capability in this mission area, and the need for the military to execute war-fighting missions, this is the best solution for the United States. DOD ordnance and explosives expertise has other critical missions to perform.

Q14: What happens if you find weapons of mass destruction (chem, nuclear, bio)?

a). Do you expect to find WMD?

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A14: If WMD is inadvertently discovered, the items will be secured and DOD notified immediately.

a) No. The USACE current mission is to accept caches of CEA from the military. Once the CEA is turned over to the USACE, we will manage transportation, collection and destruction as appropriate.

Q15: How is this ammunition going to be destroyed?

A15: The current destruction process is open detonation.

Q16: Why would some of this ammunition be put in storage?

- a). For use by who and for what purpose?
- b). Where will it be stored?
- c). Who will oversee and secure the storage?

A16:

a). DOD will provide the criteria for munitions to be considered serviceable. DOD will determine the ultimate end use of any stored ammunition.

b). Current storage plans are at secure collection sites, ammunition storage points or bunkers.

c). Oversight, storage and security of munitions not destroyed is part of the USACE requirements at such time when that mission is appropriate for complete transfer to the USACE. Options mentioned to date by CJTF-7 is that serviceable munitions would be supplied to the Iraq Army at the appropriate time.

Q17: It only took 46 days from the funding of the mission on 28 July until the contractor begins operation on 11 Sept., isn't that unusually quick to bid and award a contract of this nature?

A17: This process was handled as an urgent and compelling need that allowed an expedited contract process.

Q18: Why did you plan it so that the contractor will begin operations on Sept. 11?

a). How?

A18: There was not a planned start date on 11 September. The start date was determined by our ability to have the assets (people, equipment and life support) in the forward area to begin operations in a safe, secure and work procedures, which ensured safety to the people of Iraq.

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a): The outstanding support, cooperation, and single-minded purpose from DOD, USACE and the contractors resulted in a remarkable achievement.

Q19: Where do the contractors get individuals with the skills for this type of work?

a). What skills are necessary?

A19: The contractor's personnel that are ordnance and explosives qualified are usually former Department of Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) trained soldiers.

a). Skills required to dismantle, handle and ensure safe disposal of the vast array of military ordnance & explosives are mandatory.

Q20: The length of this contract is one year; do you expect to have this mission completed within one year?

a). If extended will other companies be allowed to bid on the work?

A20: The original estimate provided to DOD was for two years.

a). The contract strategy for additional time is currently being developed and coordinated.

Q21: What do you mean by "rendered safe"?

a). What happens to the stuff not rendered safe?

A21: Rendered safe means that the original person responding to the CEA ensures the items are safe for transportation, handling or other physical actions to the items.

Q22: Where will the ammunition be destroyed?

A22: The CEA will be destroyed at detonation sites selected by the Department of Defense. These sites are selected and operated under conditions that ensure safety to the workers and local population.

Q23: What is the environmental impact of this operation?

A23: These operations are being conducted in a similar operation as we conduct operations in the US under similar conditions.

Q24: Why does it take so many people to conduct these operations?

A24: Safety requirements for Ordnance and explosives operations like these require specific personnel requirements. Also, significant laborers are required to load, transport, prepare for destruction, communicate between crews, and provide Government safety and

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quality oversight of the operations, especially considering the quantity of CEA being destroyed at one time.

Q25: How many sites are currently conducting captured enemy ammunition operations?

- a). How many people does it take at one site?
- b). Why so many/few?

A25: As of 02 October, 3 of 6 sites have begun demolition operations.

a). We currently have approximately 145 and an additional 22 contractor personnel in route. Contractor personnel are being mobilized each week to the Conus Replacement Center for processing in preparation for deployment to the forward area.

b). The numbers are expected, especially since each contractor is beginning to mobilize and start demolition operations at the other 3 sites.

Q26: How can the military secure the civilian contractors safety?

A26: The military provides security similarly as to the security they provide for their soldiers. The USACE contractors will not take over security until the services they provide meet or exceed the current security provided by DOD.

Q27: Are these operations open to the press?

- a). How can we get photos?

A27: What we have is available by request, currently, with plans to get posted to the website soon.

Q28: Reports are that there is one million tons of conventional weapons/munitions in Iraq. Can you confirm that?

A28: No. There is much speculation about amounts of CEA. There is a huge amount, with more being uncovered. And, again, not all is going to be destroyed. SEE Q# 16.

Q29: How long will it take to destroy one million tons of munitions?

A29: First, Not all of the munitions are to be destroyed. *See questions 16& 28.* Our project plans call for 6 demolition sites operational by the end of the calendar year 2003 with maximum demolition operations to be 100 tons a day. But there are many factors in the demolition operations.

For example, there is a big difference between the demolition of a 500-pound bomb and a case of hand grenades. The hand grenades take more time, but the 500-pound bomb takes more equipment. A 500-pound bomb removes 500 pounds at one time, but

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the case of hand grenades only a few pounds. Then we have to inspect the site to make sure all were destroyed, and if some were not, we have to add them to the next demolition.

Q30: There are also reports of caches being left unguarded, what do you know about that?

a). Does that impact your operations?

A30: That is a question for CJTF-7. They are the in charge of finding and securing the caches.

a). No. We are focusing on the easily pilferable items that are the most dangerous to our troops and the people of Iraq. Pallets of 500 and 1000 pound bombs are harder to steal than a couple of hand grenades or RPG's which is why the smaller items are the weapons of choice for the terrorists.